

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

The AST Constitution Revision Committee has been recently started meeting again. As our process of revising the AST Constitution we are interested in getting feedback from the Tribal Members so that everyone has a voice in the revisions. Last year we addressed the revision issue of reducing the blood quantum at a Special General Council. At this year's April General Council we would like to present our ideas on revising the Legislative branch of the AST Government. Currently the Executive Committee hold both Executive and Legislative branches. Our recommended revision is to split the Executive and Legislative powers into two different branches. The Legislative powers, or law making powers, would be given to the Tribal Legislators who serve as representatives for the Tribal Members. The issue at hand is how we will structure the legislature- We are proposing four (4) options as stated below. Please give us your input and which option you feel best works in the revision of the AST Constitution.

The Constitution Revision Committee is considering revising the legislative branch of the AST government. Below are the four options that are currently being considered, which option do you feel would best represent the Absentee Shawnee Tribe:

- Districts based on two geographical lines that would intersect the entire U.S. represented here based on Highway 9 and Highway 18 through Shawnee, OK. This option would have four districts with equal representation based on the number of voters in each as stated above. (See Attached "A" Map)
- Districts based on separating the counties of Oklahoma into four districts and separating the states to coincide with these districts as well so that the Districts are easier to distinguish. District 1 is the northeast portion of Oklahoma and the US, District 2 is the southeast portion of Oklahoma and the US. District 3 is the southwest portion of Oklahoma and the US. District 4 is the northwest portion of Oklahoma and the US. District 2 and District 3 with the most eligible voters will have two legislators each and District 1 and District 4 will have one legislator each for a total of 6 legislators. (See Attached "B" Map)
- Districts based on the two historical bands of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe: the White Turkey and the Big Jim Bands. Each eligible voter will have to choose a historical band to be a registered voter based on their family association with the band. Those who can claim both must choose which they wish to be affiliated. Each band will have 3 legislators each.
- The final option is to not have a separate legislative branch and leave the legislative powers with the Executive Committee as it is now.

I would like to thank members of the AST Constitution Revision Committee for their time and effort and thank Kenny Jones, OEH-OHP for the Maps. Should you have any questions, if I cannot answer them, I will direct them to the committee, please contact me 405-275-4030 ext 148 or email eddieb@astribe.com.

Respectfully,
Eddie Brokeshoulder
Point of Contact
AST Constitution Revision Committee

